

Friday, June 26, 2009
Contact Jim Hubbard
(202) 225-2671

*Investments in Historic Preservation Leads to
Economic Development and Sustainability*

(WASHINGTON) - Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) voted in favor of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act today, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives 254-173. The bill includes funding for the nation's core historic preservation programs.

"Preservation has become the primary driver of economic development in hundreds of communities by generating jobs, revitalizing downtowns and neighborhoods, creating affordable housing, and promoting tourism," said Congressman Carnahan. **"By finding ways to reuse historic buildings, greening existing buildings and reinvesting in historic communities creates a more sustainable environment."**

Congressman Carnahan led a bipartisan effort, along with Republican Congressman Michael Turner (OH-3) for the inclusion of historic preservation programs to ensure the protection of historic resources nationwide that might otherwise be lost forever.

Carnahan and Turner urged House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies to include funding for historic preservation which leads to economic development. The following funding was included in the bill:

- \$46.5 million for State Historic Preservation Officers
- \$8 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
- \$30 million for Save Americas Treasures
- \$6.175 million for Preserve America

"My home state of Missouri has been a leader when it comes to preserving buildings important to our national heritage, but still we have missed saving some real gems" said Congressman Carnahan.

"With the passage of this bill it is my hope we can continue preserving and retrofitting historic buildings for the future, which will lead to jobs here in the U.S. and lower energy costs."

Missouri has ranked first in the nation for the number of federal historic rehab tax credit projects

successfully completed, up-front investment in labor and materials for the federal historic rehab tax credit and approved preliminary applications.

The additional \$46.5 million for State Historic Preservation Officers is designed to give citizens the tools they need to revitalize and rehabilitate historic places. Preserve America program is a federal initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our priceless cultural and natural heritage.

Save America's Treasures, a public-private partnership, makes critical investments in historical American buildings, artifacts, records, documents, and works of art. Save America's Treasures is also the only program which provides "bricks-and-mortar funding for historic preservation nationwide. For a list of current projects visit: <http://www.saveameericastreasures.org/>

Congressman Carnahan co-chairs the bipartisan Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus with Congressman Turner where they work to expand the support for historic preservation. Carnahan also co-founded and co-chairs the Congressional High-Performance Buildings Caucus working to promote the development of green high-performance buildings.

###